

HOLLOW SPOTS: CAUSES AND CURES

Hollow spots are those noisy, sometimes springy areas found occasionally in glued down wood floors. They can be caused by any of the following:

1. a sub floor that is not level, causing the wood plank to bridge the dip in the sub floor and sound hollow or spring up and down when walked on
2. a bowed board that did not adhere fully to the sub floor when installed
3. insufficient adhesive transfer where the board was not pressed into the adhesive correctly or was not weighted to stay flat until the adhesive could properly cure
4. not enough adhesive where the wrong size trowel was used and/or an insufficient quantity of adhesive was applied
5. expansion or contraction of the wood flooring which broke the adhesive bond to the sub floor
6. a poorly prepared sub floor where the adhesive was not able to bond properly to the sub floor because of dirt, dust, paint or other residue left on the sub floor
7. a conventional sub floor (e.g. pier and beam) that is poorly engineered or fastened, allowing the sub floor to flex under the traffic above.
8. wood flooring is not laid perpendicular to joists

Hollow spots are not uncommon to find on glue down floors but can be irritating to hear and even become safety issues if they are so severe that they cause a tripping point. Fortunately, most can be repaired once the cause is determined.

When wood flooring is glued to concrete sub floors, most hollow spots can be eliminated by using a floor repair kit such as Stauf's IFK-100 INJECTOR FLOOR REPAIR KIT. The kit provides a drill bit, glue, and a syringe-type tool for injecting glue under the board and into the hollow spot. Once filled with the glue and allowed to cure, the hollow spot is eliminated.

Causes #1 - #5 listed above will be cured using this repair kit. The sixth will likely be repaired, also, because the void is being filled, but the residue may limit your success.

The seventh item requires that one carefully examine the sub floor structure. A qualified carpenter or structural engineer can usually determine how to 'shore up' or strengthen the affected area.

Visit the Stauf web site for more information or call Stauf Technical Services at 901.820.0007.

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